ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a network control system, a device has holding units for holding in-device apparatus information containing configuration information of the device and operation information of the device functions and states, and for configuring the device operation screen. The device has a

5 control units for generating version information indicating the generation of a change in the device and for performing version control when the information in the holding units changes. The controller issues a request to the device when the in-device information changes. The version information is contained in a response from the device, and the controller reads the apparatus and version information and detects the device state change based on the version information. The

10 controller quickly and easily detects any device state change that occurs due to the control of other controllers or spontaneous changes in the device, and the controller and device share the same state information.